## **Bunak language**

The **Bunak language** (also known as **Bunaq**, **Buna'**, **Bunake**, pronounced [buna?]) is the language of the Bunak people of the mountainous region of central Timor, split between the political boundary between West Timor, Indonesia, particularly in Lamaknen District and East Timor. It is one of the few on Timor which is not an Austronesian language, but rather a Papuan language, presumably belonging to the Trans-New Guinea language family. The language is surrounded by Malayo-Polynesian languages, like Uab Meto and Tetum.

Bunak distinguishes between animate and inanimate noun classes.<sup>[4]</sup>

## **Pronouns**

Pronouns seem to tie Bunak more closely to the Alor-Pantar languages, in a group Ross (2005) calls "West Timor", than with the Papuan East Timor languages. The independent pronouns and object prefixes, which appear to retain the proto-Trans-New Guinea dual suffix \*-li, are as follows:

	sg	du	pl
1excl	ne-to n-	ne-li n-	ne-i n-
1incl		i-li Ø-	i Ø-
2	e-to Ø-	e-li Ø-	e-i Ø-
3an	himo g-	_	hala'i g-
3inan	homo		

		du	pl
1excl	ne-to n-	ne-li n-	ne-i n-
1incl		i-li Ø-	i Ø-
2	e-to Ø-	e-li Ø -	e-i Ø -
3an	himo g-	_	hala'i g-
3inan	homo		

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## **External links**

- ELAR archive of Zapal, an oral literature genre of the Bunaq Lamaknen (http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0329)
- Timothy Usher, New Guinea World, <u>Bunaq</u> (https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/famili es/trans-new-guinea/berau-gulf/west-bomberai/timor-alor-pantar/bunaq)

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